

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims replaces prior claim listing(s).

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Communication apparatus comprising:
 - a memory for storing one or more representation of a communicator located in an alert region; and
 - a controller for causing an alert message to be sent to at least one communicator in the alert region;wherein the alert message is generated automatically by computer software that checks for biological or toxic contamination sensed in the alert region for sending the alert message in a proximate area for immediate notification or neighboring proximate area for subsequent advisory, whereby such computer software enables a first alert message comprising an initial request for emergency help to be sent immediately to a first communicator located in a first area located proximately within about 10 minutes of transit time between a requester and the first communicator, and a second alert message comprising a mere advisory notification without request for emergency help to be sent subsequently to a second communicator located in a second area non-proximately located in a neighboring community, city or other further locale.
2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:
 - the controller causes the alert message to be sent in response to an alert request received by the controller from a requesting communicator located in the alert region.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:
 - at least one communicator located in the alert region comprises a locator for determining its location.
4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1:

at least one communicator located in the alert region comprises a sensor for determining an alert condition.

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

the alert message comprises a location of a requesting communicator located in the alert region.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

at least one representation stored in the memory indicates an availability or a qualification of a user associated with a corresponding communicator located in the alert region.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

the controller causes the alert message to be sent to a first communicator using a first communication protocol, and a second communicator using a second communication protocol.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

the controller causes the alert message to be sent using a first communication protocol in response to an alert request received by the controller from a requesting communicator located in the alert region using a second communication protocol.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

the controller causes an other message to be sent subsequently to the alert message to at least one communicator in a neighboring region.

10. (Currently amended) In a communication network comprising a base station and one or more devices for communicating therewith, a device comprising:

a memory for storing an identifier of a user of the device, the user being pre-registered to send or receive an alert message to or from another device, when both such devices are located in an alert region; and

means for determining a location of the device;

wherein the alert message is generated automatically by computer software that checks for biological or toxic contamination sensed in the alert region for sending the alert message in a proximate area for immediate notification or neighboring proximate area for subsequent advisory, whereby such computer software enables a first alert message comprising an initial request for emergency help to be sent immediately to a first device located in a first area located proximately within about 10 minutes of transit time between a requester and the first device, and a second alert message comprising a mere advisory notification without request for emergency help to be sent subsequently to a second device located in a second area non-proximately located in a neighboring community, city or other further locale.

11. (Original) The device of Claim 10 further comprising:

a sensor for determining an alert condition to send the alert message.

12. (Original) The device of Claim 10 wherein:

the alert message comprises the device location.

13. (Original) The device of Claim 10 wherein:

the device identifier indicates an availability or a qualification of the user associated.

14. (Original) The device of Claim 10 wherein:

the device and the another device send or receive messages using different communications protocol.

15. (Currently amended) In a wireless network for signaling between a plurality of nodes, a communication method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first node a first alert message comprising a location of the first node; and

sending to a second node located in a region comprising the location a second alert message;

wherein the first or second alert message is generated automatically by computer software that checks for biological or toxic contamination sensed in the region for sending the first or second alert message in a proximate area for immediate notification or neighboring proximate area for subsequent advisory, whereby such computer software enables a first alert message comprising an initial request for emergency help to be sent immediately to a first node located in a first area located proximately within about 10 minutes of transit time between a requester and the first node, and a second alert message comprising a mere advisory notification without request for emergency help to be sent subsequently to a second node located in a second area non-proximately located in a neighboring community, city or other further locale.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein:

the first alert message comprises an identifier of a user associated with the first node, the user being pre-registered to send or receive one or more alert message to or from the second node, when both nodes are located in an alert region.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein:

the first and second alert messages the device are communicated using different protocol.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein:

the first alert message further comprises a time stamp.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

sending to a third node located in a neighboring region not comprising the location a third alert message.